

Wycombe slump again

Wycombe Wanderers 2,
Tooting and Mitcham 3

BY virtue of this defeat, Wycombe Wanderers slumped to fifth from bottom in the Isthmian League table. Once again the team presented the points to their opponents by slack covering at the back.

In the opening 20 minutes Wycombe were clearly on top, desperately seeking that early goal which would have been such a tonic to the side. Merrick saw two fine efforts well saved, Horseman headed in but Merrick was ruled offside.

Both sides played hard and uncompromising football. There were no punches being pulled and Gale was booked for a tackle on Feeney, although the referee restarted the game with a drop ball.

For all Wycombe's pressure they could still not score although the visitors' goal enjoyed some amazing escapes. Horseman forced the 'keeper full stretch, Bates hit a post, Horseman had a shot kicked off the line, while Samuels had a header blocked on the line. So it went on.

Suddenly — almost unbelievably — Tooting went ahead. Dade cleverly ran into open space to receive a pass before crossing, and Aitchison ran the ball into the net. They increased their lead one minute before the break when Dade ran on to a pass between Faulkner and Rundle before slipping the shot under Maskell's body.

MERRICK SCORES

Straight from the kick-off Wycombe equalised in sensational fashion. Merrick stormed down the left flank and curled the ball into the top right hand corner.

In the 68th minute Wanderers were back on level terms. Horseman taking advantage of a defensive slip, fired home into the left hand corner with 'keeper Fairbrother helping the ball in. It looked only a matter of time before Wycombe scored again. Sensing they had their opponents on the run Wanderers pressed forward, Horseman had a glorious opportunity from five yards out but recklessly blazed the ball over the bar.

As often happens the team on the attack became stretched at the back. Wycombe were caught by a quick counter-attack when Goldrick raced through. Faulkner managed to touch the ball back to Maskell, although admittedly it was to one side of him, who failed to gather cleanly. Goldrick streaked forward retrieved the ball and cheekily stabbed the ball between Maskell's legs!

Wycombe: J. Maskell; J. Beck, I. Rundle; S. Thompson, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, P. Bates, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

Wycombe 2 Tooting 3

WYCOMBE ATTACKED fiercely, but Tooting took their chances to win against the run of play.

Tooting's goalkeeper, Fairbrother, had a succession of narrow escapes, yet when his team attacked towards the end of the first half Aitchison and Beck put them two up. Merrick scored for Wycombe seconds before the interval.

The speedier home forwards regained command in the second half and looked like romping home when Horseman equalised. Tooting's right-half, Aitchison, went off with an injured knee. Substitute Goldrick nipped through a bewildered Wycombe defence to score.